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# Department of State

EXCISE

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Amembassy,

ATHENS

A-334 March 16, 1953

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The Embassy's Despatch 973 of February 23, 1953 on Northern Epirus and Greek-Albanian relations has been most useful to the Department. In view of the complicated and involved nature of the Albanian problem and the resulting need for maximum information on the attitude of Albania's neighbors, it is hoped that the Embassy will be able to maintain and develop its present apparently excellent information.

It is noted on page 9 of the cited despatch that

American policy aims at creating a democratic Albania. It is then stated, however, that "the Italian factor with which it cooperates contemplates restoring Albania to the pre-war Italian influence". This implication that United States policy favors or is susceptible to the establishment of a democratic Albania oriented toward Italy is erroneous. There is no orientation in present Department thinking on Albania which is specifically partial to any one of Albania's three neighbors, on the contrary the Department seeks the establishment of a free and independent Albania within its present territorial frontiers in which no neighboring country would exert predominant influence.

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